

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-36 were pending in the application. Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 8, 13, 35 and 36. Applicants have also presented new claims 37-39. Therefore, claims 2-7, 9-12, 14-34 and 37-39 are pending in the application.

The abstract has been objected to for having improper format. Applicants have amended the abstract to overcome this objection.

Claims 1-35 have been objected to for minor informalities. Applicants have amended the relevant claims in order to correct the informalities listed on pages 2 and 3 of the Office action. Applicants request withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 9-12, 20, 21 and 31-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 9, 10 and 11 in order to overcome the rejections described on page 4 of the Office action. Applicants believe that the amendments to claims 9, 10 and 11 overcome the rejection under 25 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The Office action indicates that claims 14-17 and 35-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Furthermore, the Office action indicates that claims 20, 21 and 30-33 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejections in the Office action.

Applicants have amended claim 14 to include the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 8 and 13. The limitations of claims 1, 8 and 13 which are included in claim 14 have also been rewritten to overcome the above-discussed informalities objections and the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejections. Claim 14 is now an independent claim.

Applicants have amended claim 20 to include the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 11. The limitations of claims 1 and 11 which are included in claim 20 have also been rewritten to overcome the above-discussed informalities objections and the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejections. Claim 20 is now an independent claim.

Applicants have amended claim 31 to include the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 11. The limitations of claims 1 and 11 which are included in claim 31 have

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also been rewritten to overcome the above-discussed informalities objections and the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejections. Claim 31 is now an independent claim.

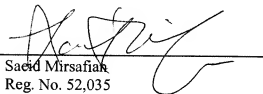
Applicants have amended claim 32 to include the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 11 and 12. The limitations of claims 1, 11 and 12 which are included in claim 32 have also been rewritten to overcome the above-discussed informalities objections and the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejections. Claim 32 is now an independent claim.

The dependent claims have been amended to depend on claims 14, 20, 31 or 32, respectively. Applicants have also amended certain dependent claims to place these claims in better form for U.S. practice. Applicants have also presented new claims 37-39. No new matter has been added as a result of the foregoing amendments.

Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 2-7, 9-12, 14-34 and 37-39.

Respectfully submitted,
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